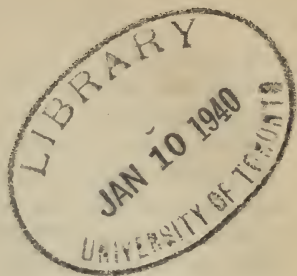


Pamph  
LE  
B.B  
F

Browning, Robert



LVIII.

## ROBERT BROWNING'S ANCESTORS.

By F. J. <sup>Federick</sup> FURNIVALL.

*Read at the Seventy-second Meeting of the Browning Society,  
Friday, February 28th, 1890.*

THE frequent suggestion of the late poet being of Jewish descent has led me to make enquiries—independent of the family—into the point; and the result is, that there is no ground for supposing the presence of any Jewish blood in the poet's veins. On the contrary, on July 4, 1757, Thomas Browning (II.), the poet's great-grandfather, had his second daughter christened "Christian." The earliest ancestor I have been able to find for the poet is Robert Browning (I.), who must have been born before 1700, and who was ultimately head-butler to Mr. Bankes of Corfe Castle.<sup>1</sup> (There is a tradition that he was drowned in the sea there<sup>1</sup> some days before he was buried on Nov. 25, 1746; but I doubt it.) This Robert Browning (I.) was probably a brother of Thomas Browning (I.), to whom the fourth Earl of Shaftesbury (1713–1771) granted in 1733, a 99-years lease of Woodyates Inn,<sup>2</sup> which was surrendered in 1760 on the granting of a fresh lease for lives to old Thomas's nephew (as I suppose).

"Woodyates Inn" is on the London, Dorchester, and Exeter Road,<sup>3</sup> in a desolate place on the Downs, near Stockbridge, in the

<sup>1</sup> Statement of the late Robert Browning, the tenant of Morley's Hotel, who died 18 July, 1866.

<sup>2</sup> Later, some of the Dorchester and Exeter coaches changed horses there.

<sup>3</sup> The family inn-keeping was continued by Thomas Browning, who kept the New Inn, Old Bailey, London, in 1834, and by Robert Browning, who had Morley's Hotel in Trafalgar Square, London. This Thomas Browning, of the New Inn, was a nephew of Robert III., the poet's grandfather. He married a widow of the name of Mason, whose only son John married his niece Jane E. Browning, the eldest daughter of Robert III. by his second wife Jane Smith. Robert Browning of Morley's Hotel was a second or third cousin of the poet.

very small hamlet of East Woodyates,<sup>1</sup> in Dorsetshire, on the borders of Wiltshire, near which, and about a mile from which, two of the ancient dikes are situate,—Bokerley Ditch and Grim's Ditch—of which the old antiquary Sir Richard Colt Hoare, and others of his kind, have written elaborate accounts, and near which a great battle was fought of old, and many barrows have been opened, as duly set forth in Hutchins's "History of Dorsetshire."<sup>2</sup> The following entries from the Shaftesbury-estate Muniment-room—due to the kindness of the agent, the Hon. E. Wilbraham—show the nature and term of the holding of the above-named Thos. Browning (II.), the nephew as I suppose :<sup>3</sup>

"Woodyates Inn."

"Oct. 29th, 1760, Lease to Thos. Browning, on Lives of Wm. Buttler of Toleard, Robert Browning<sup>4</sup> [III.] (son of said Thomas), Thomas Browning (III.) his nephew.<sup>5</sup>

"Fine £117 : 0 : 0. Rent 10/-.

"Also

"Of a close of Arrable or pasture, containing 6 acres, part of the lands granted to John Butler, for 99 years, determinable on the decease of said Thos. Browning (II.), Jane his wife, and Christian [his daughter].

"Rent reserved 4/- Fine 28/-.

"May 6th, 1779. Assignment of Woodyates Inn. Mr. Thos. Browning to [his son-in-law] Mr. Wm. Shergold."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The parish contains only 240 acres. The racer-training Days afterwards had the Inn, and no doubt galloped their horses on the Downs near. Mr. Wm. Day, of Quidhampton, Salisbury, writes : "I lived at Woodyates Inn for about 40 years. I enlarged the house and built the stables there, which cost me several thousand pounds. When I had it, about 100 or 150 acres of land were attached to the holding." These stables have tempted Lord Somerton to rent the place now for hunting. The house ceased to be an Inn about 20 years ago, although the Tap still exists, but severed from the house. Mr. Day gave up the place about 10 years since. It is an old family property of the Earls of Shaftesbury. The 3rd Earl dates 1699-1713 ; the fourth, 1713-1771 ; the fifth, 1771-1811 ; the sixth, 1811-1851 ; and the seventh, the philanthropist, 1851-1885.

<sup>2</sup> General Pitt-Rivers also had large excavations made here in 1888, which are still going on.

<sup>3</sup> Some of his inn-accounts are still in the possession of Mr. Michael Browning.

<sup>4</sup> Died Dec. 11, 1833.

<sup>5</sup> Thos. Pethebridge, *alias* Browning, of Elizabeth B.'s will, below, p. 16. (Tho it is possible that the renewed lease was to Thos. Browning I., and that the Life Thos. Browning in it was his nephew, Thomas II., I don't think it probable that Thos. I. had a wife Jane, a son Robert, and a daughter Christian, like Thomas II. had.)

<sup>6</sup> He married Christian, the daughter of Thomas Browning. His name passed to one of Thomas B.'s grandchildren. See p. 20.

The early Pentridge Registers have been lost<sup>1</sup>; the first now extant dates 1704, and in it the earliest entries of the poet's family are the baptisms of four children of ROBERT BROWNING (I.)<sup>2</sup>: Elizabeth, Oct. 14, 1719; Thomas (II.) and Robert (II.) Oct. 1, 1721; Reuben (I.), March 9, 1722. (The last—whom I can't trace—shows that the poet's uncle being named Reuben did not imply that he was a Jew. It was doubtless due to Puritan or Biblical feeling.) Next comes the marriage of this daughter Elizabeth:

"Thomas Harper of Sarum, Wilts, and Elizabeth Browning of Woodyates in y<sup>e</sup> parish of Pentridge, were married with licence, Sept. 29, 174(1; 2 or 3, figure illegible)."

Then follow the burials of the first Robert Browning's twin-son Robert (II.)<sup>3</sup> and himself:—

"1746

"Nov. 10. Robert Browning Junior was buried in wollen.<sup>4</sup>

"Nov. 25. Robert Browning Senior was buried in Woollen."

<sup>1</sup> No transcripts of them are in the Registry of the Bishop of Salisbury (says Mr. C. W. Holgate), or at Blandford, or Bristol.

<sup>2</sup> By his wife Elizabeth. See her will from Blandford below. No earlier wills of Brownings are there.

<sup>3</sup> He left a son, Thomas Pethebridge, *alias* Browning, for whom his (Robert II.'s) mother Elizabeth provided by her Will of 23 Oct., 1754 (see p. 16).

<sup>4</sup> This was "For the encouragement of the Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdome, and prevention of the Exportation of the Moneyes thereof for the buying and importing of Linnen," as the first 'Act for Burying in Woollen onely' 18 and 19 Chas. II., ch. 4 (A.D. 1666), says. Its enactment is nearly in the words of the Act of 1678 (given below) which repeals, while altering and extending the earlier Act; but it gives the whole penalty 'to be employed to the use of the Poore of the Parish where such person shall be buried, for and towards providing a Stocke or Worke house for the setting them at worke,'—while the later Act gives half to the poor, and half to the informer;—and it allows folk who die of the Plague to be buried 'in Linnen.' The later Act also says no penalties shall be incurd in Plague cases.

The later Act, 30 Chas. II., ch. 3 (1678), enacts, "That from and after the First day of August, 1678, noe Corps of any person or persons shall be buried in any Shirt, Shift, Sheete, or Shroud, or any thing whatsoever, made or mingled with Flax, Hempe, Silke, Haire, Gold or Silver, or in any Stuffe or thing other then what is made of Sheeps Wooll onely; or be putt into any Coffin lined or faced with any sort of Cloath, or Stuffe, or any other thing whatsoever that is made of any Materiall but Sheeps Wooll onely, upon paine of the Forfeiture of Five pounds of lawfull Money of England."

By § 3, an Affidavit of this Burial in Woollen was to be made under the hands and seals of two or more credible witnesses, under a further penalty of £5 to be levied from the goods of the person in whose house the deceast died, or of those who put him into the coffin without woollen, &c. This Act was amended by 32 Chas. II. ch. 1 (1680) 'An Additional Act for burying in Woollen'; but in 1814, both Acts were repealed by 54 Geo. III. ch. 108.—See *N. and Q.*, 2nd Ser. xii. 374, col. 2.

The marriage of Thomas (II.), the other twin-son, is not in the Pentridge Register, as he married his wife Jane Morris at Cranborne, Dorset<sup>1</sup>; but on Sept. 12, 1749, Robert III., born 26 July, son of Thomas Browning (II.) and Jane his wife, was baptized. The baptisms of the other children of this couple were, in 1750, Elizabeth (II.); Oct. 30, 1753, Thomas (III.); Sept. 28, 1756, Reuben (II.); July 4, 1757, Christian (a girl); and on Oct. 24, 1759, William.<sup>2</sup> Meantime had died and been buried, on Dec. 8, 1754, Thomas Browning (III.) and Elizabeth Browning (II.), whom I assume to have been the infants baptized in 1750 and 1753 respectively, as above stated (see p. 16). Of the survivors, Robert (III.) was the grandfather of the poet; and the latter used to describe him as an old gentleman with his gouty leg tuckt up on a chair, much more anxious that his grandson shouldn't get near his toe, than delighted to see the budding author.

The Rate-book shows that whatever property old Robert Browning I and his son Thomas II. held, was not valued very highly, for, from 1721 to 1745 old Robert appears as rated to the poor 7½*d.*; and in 1748 and 1749 his son Thomas was rated at 2*s.*, perhaps for Woodyates Inn. (The last entry, in 1805, is of some Thos. Browning's Church-rate, 1*s.* 8*d.*; not our Thomas II., for he must be the Thomas who died at Woodyates, 5 Sept. 1794.) In 1749, 1750, 1762, 1764 and 1765, our Thomas Browning II. (born 1721) was nominated (and appointed) Overseer, and on one occasion did not produce his accounts to the Justices in due time, as we learn by the following entry:—

“By the Vestry, March 4, 1764.

“Ordered, that Thomas Weare, as Overseer of the Poor, do apply to Mr. Templeman<sup>3</sup> to know if the Fine of 20 shillings levied by the Justices on Thomas Browning for not appearing at a proper time with the Poor-Book, in order to have his account signed, be legal, and levied according to law; and if not, to desire he would immediately take such measures to recover it as he shall think most proper.”

No further entry on this subject occurs.

In 1765, 1777, and 1789, Thomas Browning II. appears in the Parish Book as nominated Churchwarden; and in 1781 and 1782 his brother Reuben Browning I. was so nominated.

<sup>1</sup> She died in 1773, aged 44.

<sup>2</sup> Afterwards “an officer in His Majesty's ship *Sybil*; and he was unfortunately drowned in St. John's [?] harbour, Jan. 21. Died 1781, aged 22.”—Tombstone in Pentridge Churchyard, p. 17. This tombstone also mentions Richard, another son of Thomas II. and Jane Browning, below, who died an infant.

<sup>3</sup> ? The Rector. See the list of Rectors in Hutchins.



We may now leave Woodyates Inn and Dorsetshire, and take up again the poet's grandfather, Robert Browning III., born 26 July, baptised 12 Sept., 1749. By the influence of Lord Shaftesbury he got a clerkship in the Bank of England before he was twenty, and entered there on Aug. 24, 1769. He worked in the Bank for over 50 years,<sup>1</sup> became Principal of the Bank Stock Office with a salary and allowances of £561 a year, was pensioned off on 31 Oct., 1821, with £421 a year, and died on Dec. 11, 1833, at 2 Camden St., Islington. He had married, on October 13, 1778, Margaret Tittle, a Creole, born in the West Indies, whose portrait, by Wright of Derby, hung in the poet's dining-room. By her he had three children, Robert IV., born on July 6, 1782, at Battersea; Margaret Morris, born 2 Oct., 1783, died a spinster in 1858; and William, born 12 Dec., 1784 (? died young). The Creole mother died 17 April, 1789, at Camberwell, while her children were very young; and their father married again, on 10 April, 1794, a well-connected Englishwoman, Jane Smith (born at Chelsea, 29 April, 1771),<sup>2</sup> and had 9 children by her; see the pedigree below.

The half-Creole Robert IV., the poet's father, also went into the Bank of England, after he was twenty-one, and entered it on Nov. 10, 1803. He served nearly 40 years, but attained no higher post than that of Clerk in the Consols Dividend Room. His final salary was £275; he retired on Jan. 20, 1853, with a pension of £203. 6s. 8d.,<sup>3</sup> and died on June 14, 1866, having had to live for the last years of his life in Paris,<sup>4</sup> to avoid the consequences of a hostile action at law. (His son the poet took him over there.) (See the case *Von Müller v. Browning*, *Morning Chronicle* and *Times*, 2 July, 1852. A letter from the poet is referred to in it.) He married, (19 Feb., 1811, a German-Scotch lady, Sarah Anne or Sarianna Wiedemann, who died in 1849, and by whom he had at least 2 children, Robert V., the

<sup>1</sup> He was also a Lieutenant in the Honourable Artillery Company, and helped to defend the Bank in the Gordon Riots of 1780.

<sup>2</sup> She is said to have been related, on her mother's side, to the Seymours of Somerset, and was second cousin to Lord Macartney, Ambassador to China, whose dessert service is still in the late Reuben Browning's family, named in the Poet's Will (I have eaten grapes off it). Jane Smith (born April 1771 at Chelsea) was the daughter of James Smith (born 25 July 1735 at Bremhill, Wilts, died 7 July, 1799), and his wife Jane Young, born May 16, 1740, at Glasgow, died 7 Aug. 1814.

<sup>3</sup> His son the Poet had an independent income from some other relative or source. His Uncle Reuben, who did not marry till late in life, helped him at first; hence the contingent benefit to Reuben's children in the poet's Will. See below.

<sup>4</sup> As he had little or no property to leave, no Will of his was proved in London or Paris.

poet, born May 7, 1812 (died 12 Dec. 1889,<sup>1</sup>), and Sarianna (Miss Browning, still living), born in 1810 (?).

The poet's father, Robert IV., was (writes a friend) "a great favourite, a very good fellow, and an excellent draughtsman after the fashion of Rowlandson. Some of his drawings are still in the Clerks' Library and his friends' hands at the Bank. He was also a bit of a Poet. He was a Chapel man, and frequented the Chapel of the Rev. George Clayton (the Spurgeon of his day) in York St., Walworth. The Grandfather was an abler official than his son, but not possessed of the latter's talents or versatility, and so not such a favourite at the Bank." In colour, the poet's father was so dark that when, as a youth, he went out to his Creole mother's sugar-plantation in St. Kit's, the beadle of the Church orderd him to come away from the white folk among whom he was sitting, and take his place among the colourd people.<sup>2</sup> (When he was nominated for his clerkship at the Bank of England, he had to go thro' an Examination. He went into the Chief, who askt him how he was, and how he had enjoyd his voyage from St. Kit's; and on his answering these puzzlers, he was told he had past his Exam.<sup>2</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> He married the poetess Elizabeth Moulton Barrett (born 6 March, 1806) on 12 Sept., 1846. Their son Robert Wiedemann Barrett was born 9 March, 1849. The mother died 29 June, 1861, and the son married 5 Oct., 1887, Fanny Coddington, one of the three daughters of a rich New York merchant deceased.

<sup>2</sup> An old friend, who has often sat in the house of the poet's father, and knew the family well, says that they were all very dark, and he believes in their dark blood. (A Creole is, in the primary sense, a native, a person born in the West Indies or Louisiana, so that there are both Creole whites and Creole negroes. That the white and black blood got occasionally mixt, goes without saying; and the word Creole is often incorrectly used for Mulatto or Quadroon, of a person having a strain of negro blood, a dash of the tar-brush. That Miss Tittle had this dash was understood by some of Robert III.'s second family; and the eyes and colour of Robert IV. confirmd it.) On the meaning of the word *Creole*, Mr. H. G. Bowen, Chief Accountant of the Bank of England, who is himself a Creole, as being born in the West Indies—but all whose family are of the pure Saxon type—says: "The word in its original and limited sense, was used in Spanish Colonies to describe Spaniards born in the Colonies, of parents born in Spain. The word spread to the West India Islands of all sorts, to the Southern States of America, and (I believe) to Canada, and there it first meant persons born in the colony, of parents born out of the colony; hence, French Creole, English Creole, Creole Negro, &c. Afterwards, the use and meaning widened. 'Creole' now means any person, animal, or thing, born or grown in a hot western colony; the birth-place of the parents is no longer of importance. In the West Indies we have Creole horses, Creole rice, &c. Thus Creole which originally meant absence of 'colour'—white blood as distinct from black—now covers all shades."

<sup>2</sup> Robert IV. always walkt to and from the Bank, and was only once late—or 'below the line'—during his 40 years' service: and that was on the morning of the

The poet's complexion in earlier life has been described as 'olive';<sup>1</sup> and a nephew who saw him for the first time in Paris in 1837, took him for an Italian. He became lighter in after life.

As the Poet's mother is the only source from which Jewish blood could have come into the poet's veins, I must go a little into her history. Her father, Wm. Wiedemann (or Weidemann) was a mariner in Dundee, eldest son and heir of Wm. Wiedemann, a sugar-baker there.<sup>2</sup> And tho' the name Wiedemann, which means 'hunter,' may

execution of Mr. and Mrs. Manning. He couldn't get thro' the crowd in the Borough Road.

<sup>1</sup> It is possible that this colour business may have had something to do with Mr. Barrett's unjustifiable aversion to his daughter's marriage with the poet. Mr. B. was a West-Indian estate owner.

<sup>2</sup> On 27th June 1769 William Wiedemann, who is described as a sugar refiner, purchased a property in the Seagate, and obtained sasine on that day. The deed is registered in the Register of Sasines, kept in the Burgh Charter Room of Dundee, vol. 290, p. 286. The property is designated as—"All and whole that tenement of land or house, some time ago built by William Couper, messenger in Dundee, and the yard thereto belonging, lying on the South side of the Seagate of Dundee, betwixt the yard some time of the heirs of Provost George Brown on the East, the lands and yards of the heirs of James Morris, weaver, in Craigie, on the West, the Seagate Street on the North, and the Seafood on the South parts; which yard, upon part whereof said tenement or house is built, formerly belonged to David Ramsay, merchant, in Dundee, thereafter to John Ramsay, disposed thereafter to John Ramsay Lamy, his son, thereafter to Patrick Crichton, writer, in Dundee, who disposed the same to the said William Couper, and disposed by him to William Wiedemann."

No trace has been found to indicate the time when William Wiedemann came to Dundee, nor to what country he belonged. As the Sugar-House, which stood in the Seagate a short distance further East than this dwelling-house, was opened about 1751, it is possible that he may have been one of the original partners in that concern, and, after it had proved so far a commercial success, he may have purchased this house in 1769 as his own residence. In the earliest Dundee Directory that was ever framed, which is dated 1782, the name of "Mrs. Wiedman, Seagate," appears on the list of what is called "The Merchant Company," and the inference to be drawn from this is that her husband was then dead. On 7th May 1787 sasine was given of this house and ground to William Wiedemann, mariner, who is described in the document as "eldest lawful son and heir of the deceased William Wiedemann, sugar refiner." The deed is registered in the Register of Sasines at Dundee, vol. 296, p. 327. William Wiedemann, mariner, offered this property for sale on 2nd May 1787, and accepted the "last and hiest offer" made by William Baxter, flax-dresser and manufacturer in Dundee, the sum being £251 sterling. The sale was concluded on the 21st June, 1787, and the deed of sale was registered on the following day in the Register of Deeds in the Burgh Charter Room of Dundee, vol. 482, p. 357. This is the last trace that has yet been found of the Wiedemann family in Dundee. It may be mentioned that William Baxter, who purchased the property, was the father of the late Sir David Baxter, Bart., of Kilmaron, who was for some years connected with the Sugar House.

have been adopted by a few Jews in Hamburgh, &c., yet it is a regular good German name still. This Dundee Wiedemann was certainly not a Jew,<sup>1</sup> for he christend one of his daughters Christiana.<sup>2</sup> His daughter Sarah Anne livd at Peckham, in the south-east of London, and

“is entered on the first list of members of the (Congregational) church in York-street (Walworth) in 1806. (The church had been in existence for some years, but the first deacons were appointed in 1806, and in the first list of members the poet's mother stands No. 78). There is no record of her marriage with Robert Browning (IV.) senior, but in the baptismal register is the entry :—

‘Robert, son of Robert Browning and Sarah Anne his wife, was born in the parish of St. Giles, Camberwell, on the 7th of May, 1812, and was baptised on the 14th day of June, 1812, by me,—George Clayton, Minister.’

“Robert Browning the elder joined the church in 1820 (No. 425 on the list), when his son was eight years old.”<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Browning died

On examining the evidence thus afforded, it is reasonable to suppose that William Wiedemann, senior, was the great-grandfather of Robert Browning, the poet. His son, William Wiedemann, mariner, may have removed to London after the sale of the property, and as he is entered as heir to his father about five years after the death of the latter, he must have attained his majority in 1787, making the year of his birth 1766. Supposing that he was married about his twenty-fifth year, his daughter, Sarah Anne would be in her sixteenth year when she became a member of the Congregational Church in York Street, Peckham, in 1806, making her age fifty-nine at her death in 1849.—A. H. Millar, in the *Dundee Advertiser*, Saturday, March 8, 1890.

(In 1741, a well-known flute-player in London was named Weidemann; and one of the founders of the Royal Society of Musicians was a flute-player named Weidemann.—H. Bowen. As hunting and sports were not Jewish pursuits, the name Wiedemann is not at all a likely one for a Jew.—L. Wolf.)

<sup>1</sup> That is, in religion; and there is no reason to suppose he was one in race. The best authority, Mr. Lucien Wolf, does not believe he was.

<sup>2</sup> She married a Camberwell brewer, John Silverthorne. See p. 13.

<sup>3</sup> The paper adds, “He was then residing at Southampton-street, Peckham, where the poet was probably born. [He told me his birth-place had been pulled down, and the place built over again, and much altered.] It is a long, straggling street, starting with an air of gentility from the Peckham-road, but deteriorating at the other end. But in 1820 the green fields were not far away.” Later, the poet's father and family removed to Hatcham, near New Cross, and the second family of Robert Browning III. livd nearly opposite them in Albert Terrace. To the latter's house was no stable, while one was attached to Robert IV.'s place, and in it Uncle Reuben, the clerk at Rothschild's, kept his horse, which he let his nephew-poet ride while he himself was at the desk. Of the Uncle's horse, in his father's stable, the poet was probably thinking when he wrote *How they brought the good News*, in a yacht's boat off the coast of Africa. He wrote it in pencil on the fly-leaves of a book; and when he showed me the book, I hoped to hear or see the first draft



in 1849,<sup>1</sup> apparently still a member of York-street Church. A gentleman informs us that he well remembers Mr. Clayton mentioning her death as that of one of the oldest members of the society. It was no doubt through her influence that her husband was led to join the church."—*The British Weekly*, 20 Dec., 1889.

Moreover, Miss Sarah Browning describes the poet's mother (after whom she was named) as "a Christian Woman." Another Jew point has been made of Reuben Browning being at Rothschild's. On this, Mr. Robert Shergold Browning well says, "The position of Principal of the Bank Stock office, while my Grandfather held it, was a much more important one in the City than it is now, as Bank Stock was then one of the few stocks for speculative Stock-Exchange bargains; and my Grandfather, was, by his position, brought into contact with the leading financiers of the City. Thro' his connexion with old Mr. Nathan Rothschild, the founder of that great house, he got my uncle Reuben (III.) into Swithin's Lane (their London house), and my Father into their Paris house, on his retiring from the Bank of England when the £1 notes were withdrawn."

The further Jew point, that this family of Dorset-hamlet innkeepers is to be pickt out from the thousand and one other Brownings,—oyster-dredgers, timber-merchants, labourers, gentlemen, and what not—and derived from the Bräunings of Hamburgh, in order to secure the Poet for the Hebrews, is too near humbug to need discussion, willing tho' I should be to find him partly a Jew; for Jews, as a rule, have brains, and not pudding or saw-dust in their skulls, like too many English folk.

We may then dismiss the Jewish notion, and hold our poet in origin a genuine Anglo-Saxon, sprung from one of the Bruninga, the followers of a free-man and land-holder Brun,<sup>2</sup> though with the late Creole and German-Scotch crosses noted above. The family were

of the poem, and note its various readings; but the 'old poetic hand' was not to be done like that; he had carefully rubd it all out with india-rubber. Still, if leave could be got, the text might be recovered by photography, the microscope, or chemicals, if the game were worth the candle, which it surely isn't.

<sup>1</sup> She was buried in Nunhead Cemetery; and next her grave is that of several children of Reuben Browning (II.) of Rothschilds, and then the grave of William Shergold Browning, author of *The History of the Huguenots*, &c.

<sup>2</sup> So with Paddington. The Anglo-Saxon *pæd* is a cloak, *pæda* a man who has a cloak (a man of some importance); the *Pædinga* are the folk of the cloak-owner Pæda, and their *tun*, enclosure or homestead, is *Pædingatun*, our Paddington; to which, when my father was at Bartholomew's Hospital in 1804, the London guide of the day says there were only nine coaches daily.

doubtless working-men or yeomen before we hear of the head butler, Robert I.,<sup>1</sup> who had a daughter Elizabeth in 1719. Household servants naturally take to public life when they set up for themselves or start their children. Thomas Browning II. got into the Woodyates Inn, and prospered. Our poet, Robert V., came then from that middle-class to which we owe Chaucer, Spenser, Shakspere, Milton, and almost all that is best in England. His good-fellowship, his humour, his turn for art, poetry, and Greek, he inherited from his father; his tendency to music, philosophy and theology, from his German-Scotch mother; but it was himself who wrote his name on the roll of English fame.

I owe the early details of the poet's family (in answer to my enquiries) to the Rector of Pentridge, the Rev. E. Parnell, LL.B., who says that they comprise all the Browning entries in the Parish Registers and books, save a few in which the name of Browning appears as that of one of the men present, with many others, at the Vestries held in the parish. The Bank particulars were kindly procured for me by Mr. Henry Hucks Gibbs.<sup>2</sup> The family details I owe to the goodwill of Mr. Robert Shergold Browning, Mr. Michael; and Miss Christiana Browning, and Miss Sarah Browning. These I make public in order to put enquirers on the right track, and to get further particulars of the poet's family.<sup>3</sup> Mr. W. M. Rossetti has not been able to find out, through his office at Somerset House, whether licenses were granted to the above-named Brownings as holders of the Woodyates Inn.<sup>4</sup> At present, no connection is known to exist between these Woodyates Brownings and the knightly and squirely family of Browning who in early days held the Manors of Melbury Sampford and Melbury Osmond in the north-west of Dorsetshire, and whose last representative disappeared in the time of Henry VII., their manors going into the line of the Earl of Ilchester, who still holds them. See Hutchins's "Dorsetshire" hereon.<sup>5</sup> Nor has any relationship yet been shown between the

<sup>1</sup> No doubt he went thro the usual stages of page, footman, and under-butler, before he became chief butler.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Bowen, the Chief Accountant, has also been good enough to help me.

<sup>3</sup> They should be sent to me at 3 St. George's Square, Primrose Hill, London; N.W. If any come, they will be put into the Society's *Papers*.

<sup>4</sup> There are no old Dorset Poll-Books in the British Museum to show what Brownings were on the lists of voters.

<sup>5</sup> But, says my friend and helper, Mr. Challenor Smith of the Probate Registry, Somerset House: "There are Dorset Brownings before 1556 in the Prerogative Court here: 1. John, 1416, Melbury Sampford; 2. Thomas, 1540, Bere St. John;

Brownings of Cowley, Glostershire, whose arms and family are specified in the Visitation of 1623, Harleian Soc., vol. xxi. p. 32-3 (1885). But on June 14, 1664, was baptised at Cowley, Robert, son of John Browninge and Mary his wife, who had a very large family. This Robert might have had a son of the age of (and who was) our Robert I., though I have no reason for supposing he had, save that his coat of arms and the poet's have some distant likeness. Arms are however easily annexed, and I attach no importance to the above guess. Mr. H. H. Gibbs says the poet's arms are those given in Papworth's Armory to Bruer (Devon), Bruining or Bruning of Wilts and Derby.<sup>1</sup> We may therefore assume them to have been adopted, without right, by one of the poet's ancestors, not the butler. There is no modern grant of arms to them in the College of Arms. A high official there has searcht for me.

I intended these Notes only for our *Monthly Abstract* as a kind of Appendix to my *Browning Bibliography*, but as influenza prevented Mr. Revell producing his Paper promist for Feb. 28, I had to substitute for it these Notes and a chat. My interest in the enquiry has been, 1, to find out the facts as to the Jew theory, and 2, to see how the Creole dark-blood cross with the dull West-Saxon produced the clever, versatile, Robert IV. while the German-Scotch cross gave us the poet; but we must never forget the individual genius of ROBERT BROWNING. As a radical and democrat, I of course rejoice that the descendant of a Dorsetshire footman has been buried with solemn pomp in Westminster Abbey (31 Dec., 1889), and that I preside over the Society which I helpt to found in his honour (July 1881).

3. Thomas, 1542, Southover; 4. William (an Esquire), 1493, Mydilton (Milton); 5. William (an Esquire) 1504, Bridport. Nos. 1, 2, 3, are very wide of Pentridge: 2 and 4 appear to be about 20 miles therefrom." There are also several Dorset Brownings in the Somerset House Calendars of Wills which I have lookt thro', from 1785 to 1889.

<sup>1</sup> Gules, 2 bindlets wavy argent; but, in the poet's coat, debased.

## 1. THE POET ROBERT BROWNING'S WILL, 12 FEB., 1864

[*Pall Mall Gazette*, 22 Feb., 1890, p. 6, col. 3].

THE will of the late Robert Browning, which is entirely in his own handwriting, is as follows :—

“This is the last will and testament of me, Robert Browning, the younger, of 19, Warwick Crescent, Harrow Road, Esquire. First, I revoke all other wills. Also I give and bequeath unto George Gooden Moulton Barrett, late of Warmincombe House, Tiverton, barrister, and John Forster, of Palace Gate House, Kensington, barrister (whom I hereby appoint my executors, and also as my trustees for the purposes hereinafter mentioned), all my stock and property in the Italian Public Debt or securities, and also all my stock and property in the English funds, and also all my copyrights, money, securities, and personal estates whatsoever and wheresoever, upon the trusts following—that is to say, upon trust out of the income or annual proceeds of my Italian stock and securities to pay unto my sister, Sarianna Browning, half-yearly during her natural life, the sum of £200 sterling for her absolute use, and subject thereto upon trust out of my Italian and English stocks and property and the income thereof from time to time to pay and apply such sum as shall be necessary or desirable to maintain and educate my son, Robert Wiedemann Barrett Browning, until he shall attain the age of twenty-one years, and on my said son attaining the age of twenty-one years, I direct my trustees to stand possessed of all my said Italian and English stocks and property, and all my personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever, in trust for my said son Robert Wiedemann Barrett Browning, absolutely, subject, nevertheless to the payment of the said yearly sum of £200 sterling to my said sister during her life as aforesaid. And further, in case my said son Robert Wiedemann Barrett Browning shall die under the age of twenty-one years without leaving lawful issue, and leaving my said sister Sarianna Browning him surviving, then I direct my said trustees to stand possessed of all my Italian and English stock, property, and personal estate for the sole and absolute benefit of my sister Sarianna Browning, in the hope and confidence that she will, by her last will or otherwise, give so much thereof, and in such share, as she in her discretion shall think fit, unto the children of my uncle Reuben Browning,<sup>1</sup> and of my cousins James,

<sup>1</sup> He married, late in life, a Welsh lady, Margaret Lewis, and had by her four sons and four daughters: Robert Reuben (clever) died in 1887; Michael, still a bachelor; Thomas Henry, married; William, died in Sept. 1889; Christiana, Elizabeth, and Mary Louisa, still spinsters, and Margaret Jane, married to John Horne. Reuben Browning's Will bears date 22 Nov. 1871, leaves his property



John, and George Silverthorne;<sup>1</sup> and I hereby declare my wish and desire to be that my trustees shall not sell nor convert into other stock or securities my said stock in the Italian Debt, during the lifetime of my sister or during the minority of my son. In witness whereof I have hereunder, and also to a duplicate hereof set my hand this 12th of February, 1864.

ROBERT BROWNING THE YOUNGER.

Signed and delivered by the testator, Robert Browning the younger, as and for his last will and testament in the presence, of us present at the same time, who at his request, in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.—A. Tennyson, Freshwater, Isle of Wight; F. T. Palgrave, 5, York Gate, London, M.A., University, Oxon.”

John Forster, one of the two executors named in the will died in the lifetime of the late Robert Browning on February 2, 1876, and George Gooden Moulton Barrett has duly renounced probate. Letters of administration with the will annexed have therefore been granted to Robert Wiedemann Barrett Browning of 29, De Vere Gardens Kensington, the testator's son, by whom the gross value of the personal estate and effects in the United Kingdom has been sworn at £16,774 19s. 4d. [This is of course independent of the freehold house in De Vere Gardens, and much of the value of the copyrights.]

[Most of the money came from John Kenyon, of Devonshire Place, London, and of Cowes, who, by his will, dated 26 Nov., 1856, and proved (with 3 codicils) on 19 Dec., 1856, left £4,000 to his cousin, Elizabeth Barrett, wife of Robert Browning (the poet), free of legacy duty, and £6,500 to the said Robert Browning, subject to the legacy duty of 6 per cent.<sup>2</sup>]

(sworn under £2,000) to his wife and daughters, and appoints his three sons, Reuben Robert, Michael, and Thomas Henry his executors. Of these, Reuben Robert proved the Will on Dec. 20, 1879. Reuben, the father, was a clever man, a good linguist, and wrote on finance under an assumed name. He was too a good classic. Lord Beaconsfield said the inscription on a silver inkstand presented to Baron Lionel's daughter on her marriage by the clerks at New Court was the most appropriate thing he had ever come across, and he told the Baron that whoever had selected it must be one of the first Latin scholars of the day. The answer was, “he's only one of my clerks.”

<sup>1</sup> Christiana Wiedemann, the poet's aunt, married a Camberwell brewer, John Silverthorne (he's in the *London Directory*, 1809, 10—11, &c.) and had three sons, James, John and George. James was an artist, but on his father's death succeeded to the Brewery, which eventually went to ruin thro' his incompetency for business. He married, late in life, Jane Street Hayman, and had one son (his only child) Edward Christian Silverthorne, who is now a clerk in Rothschild's bank, is married, and has two sons. John and George Silverthorne are both dead.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Kenyon also left £6,500 to Bryan Waller Procter, £8,000 to Hy. Southey, and smaller legacies to Landor, Jn. Forster, Panizzi of the British Museum (with his wines), Robert Southey's children, &c. He left University College, London, £5,000.

## 2. WILL OF ROBERT BROWNING III., THE POET'S GRANDFATHER, 21 AUG. 1819.

(*Extracted from the Principal Registry of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division of the High Court of Justice.*)

### IN THE PREROGATIVE COURT OF CANTERBURY.

In the Name of the Blessed, Great and Merciful God, I make this my last will and testament, revoking all former wills. As my son Robert Browning, and daughter Margaret Morris Browning, have had, by their Uncle Tittle and Aunt Mill, a much greater proportion<sup>1</sup> than can be left to my other dear children, I trust they will not think I am deficient in love and regard to them: I give to my said dear children Robert and Margaret Morris Browning, ten pounds each for a ring. I give to my dear wife Jane Browning, all the rest I shall die possessed of, trusting in her love and prudence she will, to the best in her power, take care of our dear children; therefore I appoint her my sole Executrix of this my will, this twenty-first day of August, in the year of our Lord and Saviour, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen. ROBT. BROWNING. (L.S.)

Signed, sealed and delivered by the said ROBERT BROWNING, and in the presence of each other,—T. J. LITTLEFEAR, WM. TUDOR, both of the *Bank Stock Office, Bank of England*.

### FIRST CODICIL (14 JAN. 1829) TO THE WILL OF ROBERT BROWNING III., THE POET'S GRANDFATHER.

I do confirm the above, my last will and testament, dated the 21st of August 1819, revoking all others; and as I have left whatever I may die possessed of to my wife Jane Browning, for her use during her life, and at her death recommending my property to be equally divided between my children by her, such as are alive at her decease, and if any are dead, the children of him, her or them to have the share of him, her or them so deceased, divided among them, excepting Jane Eliza [Mason] and Thomas, to wit, between William Shergold, Reuben, Mary [Mansir,] Louisa, Jemima Smith [Hixon] and Sarah Browning. In consideration of my daughter Jane Eliza having received, on her marriage with John Mason, the sum of one hundred pounds, I desire her to have at the death of her mother, one hundred pounds more for her own sole use and benefit, so that she shall have no concern in the division of my property among her brothers and sisters. I leave to my son Thomas, the sum of fifty pounds at the death of his mother, so that he may likewise have no

<sup>1</sup> I can't trace this gift, if it ever took effect. Possibly it provided for the poet in early manhood.

concern in the division of my property among my other children ; but if he shall sell, alienate or dispose of the reversion of it, [it] shall be divided among his brothers and sisters as if not left to him. I leave my household furniture, plate, linen and books, entirely to my wife's disposal. Jan. 14th 1829. ROBT. BROWNING. (L.S.) [Witness] JAMES HUNTER, *Islington Green*.

### SECOND CODICIL (8 JUNE, 1829) TO THE WILL OF ROBERT BROWNING, III., THE POET'S GRANDFATHER.

In the above Codicil I have left all my property to my wife for her life, and after her decease as the Codicil recites : now, in case of sickness or any unforeseen circumstances, I hereby give her authority to dispose of so much of the said property as may be necessary for her own comfort and subsistence. This 8th June 1829. ROBT. BROWNING. (L.S.) [Witness] E. H. MANSIR, *Percival Street*.

### THIRD CODICIL (28 OCT. 1833) TO THE WILL OF ROBERT BROWNING III., THE POET'S GRANDFATHER.

This is a Codicil to the will dated [2]1st August 1819. Whereas I have advanced the sum of two hundred pounds to my daughter Louisa Browning, of Dartmouth Row, Blackheath, for the purpose of assisting her in the formation of her Establishment in that place,<sup>1</sup> this is to certify, that it is my wish that the said sum of two hundred pounds be set apart for [from] the rest of my estate and be applied to the use and benefit of my three daughters Louisa Browning, Jemima Smith Browning, and Sarah Browning, without any reference to their respective shares of my property as specified in the above named will. Islington, 28th Oct. 1833. ROBT. BROWNING. (L.S.) [Witness] A. AVIOLET, *Cold Bath Square*.

(Proved 18th January, 1834).

(The Register of the Will is followed by a long Affidavit from Reuben Browning who drew the 3rd Codicil, explaining that the date given in it to the Testator's Will, 1 Aug. 1819, was a mistake for 21 Aug. Mr. Tudor, a fellow-officer of the Testator in the Bank, see p. 14, testifies to his signature.)

<sup>1</sup> Louisa had a School there. Jemima Smith married Mr. Hixon. The sisters Louisa and Sarah lived together at the School, and then at 32 Maitland Park Road, Haverstock Hill, N.W., till the death of the former, on 6 Sept. 1887, broke up their house. At 32 Maitland Park Road lived also Mary, the widow of Robert Browning, who had Morley's Hotel. These Thomas Bs. lived at Barkham Terrace, S.E., before they moved to 2 Gloster Rd., Regent's Park. Robert died 18 July, 1866 ; his widow, 28 Sept. 1885.

### 3. WILL OF ELIZABETH BROWNING, WIDOW OF ROBERT BROWNING I., 23 OCT., 1754.

*(Extracted from the Blandford District Registry of the Probate Division  
of the High Court of Justice.)*

#### IN THE COURT OF THE ARCHDEACON OF DORSET.

In the Name of God, Amen. I, Elizabeth Browning, of Wood-yates, in the Parish of Pentridge, in the County of Dorset, Widow, being weak of Body, but of sound and perfect mind and memory, (thanks be given to Almighty God!) doe make and ordain this my present last Will and Testament, in manner and form following, (viz.), First and principally, I commend my Soul into the hands of God who gave it, hoping, through the meritts and mediation of my Saviour Jesus Christ, to have full and free pardon and forgiveness of all my Sins; and my Body I committ to the Earth, to be decently interr'd in Pentridge Churchyard, about the discretion of my Executor hereinafter named; and as touching all such mony and monies worth as it hath pleased God to bestow upon me, I doe hereby give and dispose thereof as followeth: First, I Will that my Debts and Funerall Expenses be paid and discharged by my Executor hereafter named. First of all, I give unto Thomas Pethebridge, Alias Browning (Son of my late Son Robert Browning [II.] deceased), the sum of One Hundred Pounds. And my Will is, that the said Thomas Pethebridge shall be Educated at School, at y<sup>e</sup> expence of my Son Thomas Browning, till he's of Age fitt to be put Apprentice; and then the said Thomas Pethebridge to be apprenticed to such Trade as my Son Thomas shall think most fitt and convenient for him,<sup>1</sup> and also about the expence of my Son Thomas, except Fifteen Pounds, which my Will is shall be taken out of y<sup>e</sup> abovesaid One Hundred Pounds, as part of y<sup>e</sup> money for the said apprenticeing the abovesaid Thomas Pethebridge. And the rest of the said One Hundred Pounds (viz. Eighty-five Pounds), shall remain in my Son Thomas Browning hands untill the said Thomas Pethebridge shall attain to the Age of Twenty-one Years; but if the said Thomas Pethebridge shall happen to die before he attain to the age of Twenty-one years, Then my Will is, that the said One Hundred Pounds shall then remain and be my Son Thomas Browning's; which Legacy abovesaid given, is to be paid by my Executor hereinafter named, or whome he shall appoint, when it become due. And I doe hereby desire and appoint my Son Thomas Browning, and Nathaniel Bestland of West-woodyates, as proper Guardians to see my Will fulfil'd in every respect as touching the Care of the abovesaid Thomas Pethebridge alias Browning. All the rest and Residue of my Estate, as well Real as Personal, money and

<sup>1</sup> He was apprentist to Mr. Nott, a stone-mason at Wimborne, Dorset.



monies worth, of what nature, kind or Property soever, I doe hereby give and bequeath unto my Loving Son Thomas Browning, whome I doe make my whole and Sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament. And I doe hereby revoke, disannull, and make void all former wills and Testaments by me heretofore made, and doe Ratife and Confirm this to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof, I have hereunto sett my hand and Seal, this Twenty-third Day of October, in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and fifty four. The mark of Elizabeth E. B. Browning. (L.S.) Signed, Sealed, published and declared to be the last Will and Testament of the Testatrix, in the Presence of Us, WILLIAM HOOPER, JNO. BEALE.

Proved in the Court of the Archdeacon of Dorset, on the 23rd April, 1759, by the Oath of Thomas Browning, the sole Executor.

(Office Copy : the Blandford District Registry of the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice.) (T. J.)

#### 4. COPY OF INSCRIPTIONS ON A TOMBSTONE IN PENTRIDGE CHURCHYARD (BY THE REV. E. PARNELL).

In Memory of Jane Browning who died 16th July 1773 Aged 44 years.

Thomas Browning husband of the above 5th Sept. 1794 Aged 73.

William Browning their son an officer in His Majesty's ship Sybil and he was unfortunately drowned in St. John's (?) harbour Jan. 21 died 1781 aged 22.

Likewise Thomas and Richard<sup>1</sup> their sons who both died in their infancy.

Christian Rose widow of the late William Shergold (?).

A daughter of Thomas and Jane Browning of Woodyates (?). Departed this life (*illegible*) ———

The following account of the second family of Robert III., and of his eldest grandson, William Shergold Browning (by his second wife Jane Smith), and of his great-grandson Robert Shergold Browning, of the Bank, Hinckley, is by the latter gentleman :—

“The Thomas Browning who kept the New Inn, Old Bailey was a nephew of Robert III., son of his brother William (p. 3). He married a widow of the name of Mason, whose only son John married his niece, Jane E. Browning, the eldest daughter of Robert B. III., by his second wife.

“Reuben Browning, of Rothschild's,—born 11 April, 1803, died 6 Sept., 1879, buried at Shirley, near Croydon—married in 1846 or

<sup>1</sup> I have no other note of him.

1847 a Miss Margaret Lewis, and had the following issue, 6 of whom are still living:—Christiana Browning, the eldest child, spinster; Robert Reuben B., dead, bachelor; Michael, alive, bachelor; Thomas Henry, alive, has 3 sons, Thomas, Michael, Robert; William Henry, dead, bachelor; and three other daughters: Margaret Jane (Mrs. Horne), Elizabeth and Mary Louisa, both spinsters.

“My mother’s name was Louisa Mansir. Her brother Robert married my father’s sister Mary: they had one child, a boy, who died some years ago. She subsequently married a Doctor Mason, of Lincoln, but there was no issue of that marriage.

“My aunt Jane, who married John Mason, had a large family—Reuben, who died in Bristol; Arthur, who died in New York; Eliza Jane, married to Edward Goodwin, architect, no family; Cyrus Mason, emigrated to Victoria, and has held a government appointment in Melbourne for many years, has had a large family; Harriet, married to Mr. Althaus, musician, three children; Sarianna, married William Goodwin, builder, three children; Fanny, married, went to South Africa, a large family; Philip, emigrated to Australia.

“My aunt Jemima married William Hixon, and had four children—two boys and two girls. The boys are single, I think; but the girls—Jane married Capt. Davies Smith, resides at Pentridge Cottage, Liddington, Beds; Clara, married, but died young.

“Issue of William Shergold Browning, born at Chelsea 3 Feb. 1797, died February 1874 = Louisa Mansir:—William Mansir B., died in London 1844, a bachelor; John Wace, died in New Orleans 1844, a bachelor; Elizabeth Ann + Bannister Sly, no family; Robert Shergold B. + Harriet Caldecott Triquet, see issue p. 19; Louisa Jane + R. Jebb Dyke, large family, both parents dead; Emily Francis B., single; Christiana Mary + widow of Thos. Carr, has two daughters; Reuben James + Mary de Montmorency, has one daughter; Ellen Jane, single; Mary Victoria, died 1854, single.

“William Shergold Browning lived in Paris from 1824 to 1845. His five younger children were born there. He had a large circle of literary friends, through whose influence he had access to, and obtained loans of books from the National Libraries to enable him to write the *History of the Huguenots*, a work full of research, with a reference to contemporary literature for almost every occurrence mentioned or referred to. He also wrote *The Provost of Paris* and *Hoel Morvan*, historical novels, and *Leisure Hours*, a collection of miscellanies, and was a contributor for some years to the *Gentleman’s Magazine*. He died in 1874, in his 77th year.

“Robert Shergold Browning, born 13 Dec., 1824 + Harriet Caldecott Triquet, daughter of W. D. Triquet, Esq., Bank of England. Issue :— Robert Jardine B., b. 1853, M.A. of Linc. Coll., Oxford ; Barrister-at-Law ; Crown Prosecutor, New South Wales ; Author of *Municipalities Acts* 1867, Sydney, New South Wales, &c., &c., married Beatrice Lamonerie Lamb, of Sydney, New South Wales, and has two boys ; Harriet Elizabeth, b. 1854 + married J. F. Firth, Junr., 2 daughters and 3 sons ; Percy Browning, b. 1856, married, Stockbroker, London, one boy ; Charles Dearmer B., b. 1859, bachelor, Solicitor ; Arthur B., b. 1867, bachelor, studying for Holy Orders and Literature, joint author of *The Touch of a Vanished Hand* (Remington) under a pseudonym ; also two boys, died in infancy.”

---

## SUMMARY.

---

- I. Robert Browning, butler, bef. 1700—1746.
- II. Thomas Browning, inn-keeper, 1721—1794.
- III. Robert Browning, bank-clerk, 1749—1833.
- IV. Robert Browning, bank-clerk, 1782—1866.
- V. ROBERT BROWNING, *poet*, 1811—1889.
- VI. Robert W. B. Browning, artist, 1849—

Elizabeth Br. (b. 14 Oct., 1719, = Thomas Harper, m. 29 Sept., 1741)	Thomas Br. II. (b. 1 Oct. 1721, = Jane Morris (b. 1729, at Cranborne, Dorset; d. 1773).	Robert Br. II. (b. 1 Oct. 1721, = ? — Pethebridge, d. 10 Nov. 1746).	Reuben Br. I. = (?) (b. 9 March, 1722).
	Thomas Br. II. (b. 1 Oct. 1721, = Jane Morris (b. 1729, at Cranborne, Dorset; d. 1773).	Thomas Pethebridge III. =	Robert (Morley's Hotel) = Mary (?)
	Margaret Tittle, Creole, of St. Kitts (m. 13 Oct. 1778; d. 17 April, 1789).	Robert Br. III. (Bank of England).	Christian = William Shergold (b. 4 July, (died Woodyates). 1757).
Robert Br. IV. = Sarah Anne (b. 6 July, 1782, (or Sorianna) Wiedemann. (Bank of England).	Margaret Morris, (d. spinster, 1858). <sup>1</sup>	William (b. 2 Dec. 1784).	William = (b. 26 Oct. 1759).
ROBERT BR. V. = ELIZABETH MOULTON BARRETT (Poet, d. 1861).	Sarianna Br. (spr. living).		Thomas = Widow Mason. (kept New Inn, son John m. Jane El. Br. *) Old Bailey.)
Robert Wiedemann Barrett = Fanny Coddington (lady, of New York merchant).	Br. VI. (Artist).		
Wm Mansir (d. 1844 s.p.)	Jn Wace (d. 1844 s.p.) Ann.	Eliz. = B. Sly.	Robert Shergold = Mary Br. (m. 30 June, 1831) (Hinckley Bank). (For Children, see p. 19).
			Wm. Shergold Br. (Bank of England, and Paris, Rothschild's), b. 3 Feb. 1797.
			Jane Eliza Br. = John Mason. * (b. 15 Sept. 1800; d. 1880.
			(8 Children, p. 18.)
			Christiana Br. (b. 1 March, 1799; d. spinster 7 Feb. 1825).
			Reuben = Ellen James. (single), (d. s.p.) (1 daughter).
Reuben Br. 2 = Margaret Lewis. (Rothschild's) b. 11 April, 1808; d. 6 Sept. 1879).	Robt. Mansir = Mary Br. (b. 21 Mar. 1805; d. Aug. 1864).	Jenima Smith Br. = Wm. Hixon. (b. 5 July, 1811; d. 28 Nov. 1880).	Sarah (b. 9 Sept. 1814; spinster, living).
	Son (died young).	4 Children (p. 18).	
Christiana (spinster).	Robert Reuben (d. 1887 s.p.).	Michael Br. Woodyates, Wandsworth (bachelor).	Thomas Br. V. = (?) (Bank of England b. 15 April, 1809; d. 1878).
		William Henry (d. Sept. 1889).	Elizabeth (spinster).
		Margaret Jane = John Horn.	Mary Louisa (spinster).
		Thomas Henry = (3 Sons).	
		Thomas; (2) Michael; (3) Robert.	

<sup>1</sup> Robert Browning had Morley's Hat above) £25 each, by a codicil to his Will. His daughter is the wife of the Rev. Mr. Badu be the property of the James family, who were <sup>2</sup> This is the uncle named in the p. Common. One is glad to see the old name